

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 085139

71

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 /058 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. DAY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DOHA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANA PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 085139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANESE PRESIDENCY

REF: BEIRUT 1685

1. GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES: THE
LEBANESE SITUATION IS IN A MOST DELICATE STAGE, WITH THE
NEXT MAJOR MILESTONE TO BE PASSED COMING UP IN THE FORM OF
A MEETING OF PARLIAMENT DURING WHICH THE CONSTITUTION MAY

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 085139

BE AMENDED TO PERMIT THE IMMEDIATE ELECTION OF A NEW PRESI-

DENT. IF THIS OCCURS WITHOUT UNDUE FRICTION, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE PRESENT PRESIDENT, FRANGIE, WILL RESIGN SHORTLY THEREAFTER, THEREBY CONTRIBUTING TO WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT CALMING OF THE SITUATION.

2. THE USG SO FAR HAS TAKEN PAINS TO AVOID SUPPORTING OR APPEARING TO SUPPORT ANY PARTICULAR CANDIDATE FOR THE PRESIDENCY. AS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ISSUE ITSELF, OUR POSITION REMAINS AS STATED BY THE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON MARCH 29: "IT APPEARS TO US, MOREOVER, THAT A CEASEFIRE AND AN ORDERLY AND CONSTITUTIONAL RESOLUTION OF THE PRESIDENTIAL QUESTION ARE NECESSARY IF PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE ON THE MORE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES."

3. FOR KUWAIT: CONSISTENT WITH THE FOREGOING GUIDANCE, YOU SHOULD ASK CHARLES RYDER OF THE INTERNATIONAL EXECU-

TIVE SERVICE CORP (REFTEL) NOT RPT NOT TO ENCOURAGE ANY OF HIS CONTACTS TO GET IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR BROWN IN BEIRUT TO PROMOTE THE CANDIDACY OF THIS OR THAT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE. MISINTERPRETATIONS OF THE AMERICAN ROLE IN THE LEBANESE CRISIS CAN ALL TOO EASILY MAGNIFY AND POSSIBLY DAMAGE THE EFFORTS AMBASSADOR BROWN IS NOW MAKING. SISCO

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